

Senate Meeting 5/5/09

Senators attending: Wood, Curtin, Clarke, Welsh, Rieck, Khazeh, Gilkey, Weaver, Walton, Scott, Robeck, O'Loughlin, Ludwick, DeWitt, Street, McDermott, Parker, Shannon

Senators absent: none

1. Announcements from the Senate president.

President gavels open the meeting at 3.32

Sen O'Loughlin: Since we have a lot of business, no announcements.

2. Remarks from the Provost, Dr. Tom Jones.

Good Afternoon. First, in terms of general announcements regarding the flu situation: As a result of past situations concerning VA Tech and the Avian flu, we have had a good preparedness guideline ready, and we've been able to use our current policies. The committee is meeting regularly, we are waiting and watching and working out contingency plans if we do have to cancel things. We do have a depth chart as to who takes over if someone is out of commission. Keep up with the daily input on the web-site to remain prepared.

They have been meeting about enrollment for next year - on-target, things are looking good. As we are looking to the summer, we need to get everyone into classes - especially the right classes with the import of retention. We need to emphasize the preview phase to keep the students happy. The budget: we will finish out this year in the black by a couple of dollars. There are a few things that might place us lightly in the red, but there is no excess case out there - nothing for additional requests, no cola, no merit, etc. We are not in great economic shape. 2010 budget is brighter - as of now, it would place us back on our feet after this year. Since 2010 was already ahead of 2009, it has balanced out - we have our original budget from this year back. Meeting is coming up and the recommendations of the Provost, etc, will be given at tomorrow morning's meeting on how to emerge from the current freeze. Also working with deans on faculty vacancies & which ones we should move forward on next year. We should be getting back on our feet next year.

Questions:

Sen McDermott - on faculty compensations - who do we see in Library (main desk). Second - ran into a situation that was told that as an advisor we aren't allowed to tell students about rate your professor. Sandra Cohea-Weible & Provost unaware. Sandra says it's never been discussed.

Shannon says in summer preview registration some students were sent to rate your professor - and were urged not to do this as part of official practice of university. Fine for general faculty.

Finally, with evaluations, what weight is placed on grade information when analyzing the evaluation information. If you have a higher grade distribution, does that mean you are an easier teacher? Shannon says Chairs and deans actually cannot access that information. Khazeh says each faculty member could send it (their grade distributions) to the review committee and/or chair. McDermott says that grade distributions are swallowing the whole in Perdue - Provost says not a policy.

3. Approval of minutes from Senate Meeting of April 21, 2009

Motion to approve, seconded.

NO COMMENTS

All in favor - unanimous ayes.

4. Committee Reports:

None.

5. Old Business:

a. Motion: rescind vote on the motion to approve "Bylaws of the University Governance Association" passed by the Faculty Senate on March 24, 2009.

The gavel is turned over to VP Clarke as President O'Loughlin makes motions.

Motion to rescind vote, seconded.

Overview - the task force meeting since Oct has been revising the constitution of the University Forum. When passed on 21 April meeting, believed all would work well with the other groups (staff and students) - but now there are changes from the SGA and the Faculty Staff. This is to rescind the document so we are clear to pass the new document with revisions. Says will benefit all.

Sen DeWitt asks: What were the issues?

O'Loughlin replies - 1. for SGA it was that the name of the Institution was too close to SGA - therefore change to Consortium (SUGC); also changes all the coordinating committees to correspond.

2. For staff - 3 issues - clarify membership of governance community with regard to the collective bargaining workers - we learned they were not allowed to participate because of representation rules/union rules. Also on representation on 2 committees to increase staff representation on committees

so staff would be equal with student and faculty representation.

Discussion follows.

Called question. All in favor? Ayes unanimous.

b. Motion: approve the "Bylaws of Salisbury University Governance Consortium."

Motioned, seconded.

Discussion follows:

On changing name, utilization of the space committee, et al.

Call the motion, Unanimously in favor with show of hands.

6. New Business:

a. Motion: approve the "Student Academic Grievance Policy," floor sponsor, Senate Kurt Ludwick, also chair of the Academic Policies Committee.

Ludwick moves that Senate accept the policy sent by email to the Senate (attached hereto). Seconded.

Summary: Charge to committee is to clean up the current policy, breaking off the student academic part of policy. The new policy primarily blocks out parts of text that do not concern student academic issue. The major change: changed the time-line (reducing time to file the grievance) - want a reasonable timeline for completing over the summer. Also formal student academic grievances will go through Provost office now. Want to create parallels in procedure.

Discussion follows:

Sen. Shannon: In step 4 - 5 academic working days to send grievance to academic affairs, then typo on changing to academic affairs, not the dean of students.

Ludwick agrees to this as a friendly amendment.

Clarify: ...The assistant vice president of academic affairs will forward the grievance... (Replace Dean of Students to assistant vice pres of academic affairs.

Discussion follows:

Particularly regarding timing of filing grievances.

Call the question. All in favor, Ayes unanimous.

O'Loughlin caveat - another piece of grievance policy is in hands of faculty welfare at the moment - we will revisit it in the fall.

Dave Parker: On Motion: Faculty Senate requests that the administration change the schedule adjustment period to the middle of the semester (phrasing on Parker's form). In addition, charges academic policies committee to look into & report to Senate by mid-semester 2009.

Seconded.

Discussion follows.

On academic policies committee discussion, how to make sure rules and practice correspond, whether both changes to the policy should be supported, while overall decision is to support #2, not #1.

If ready: Vote on first part of motion. Ayes and nays as similar.

Re-reads Motion 1.

All in favor of part 1 of motion. Vote: 8 in favor, 8 opposed. President O'Loughlin makes the decision - No - the nays take it.

Re-reads Motion 2.

Section 2 of motion: Ayes have it unanimously.

b. Textbook survey for faculty, Tom Nelson, Student Government Association.

Tom Nelson, SGA, with Julia Glands (VP of University affairs). Thanks for having me speak before you. Mentions email of the joint resolution of SGA and faculty senate for textbook policy. Julia and Tom met at beginning of semester to find a way to make textbooks cheaper. Then System in Feb came out with new recommendations. Issues came out - including of the bookstore - on whether to push students to move more on-line with book-swapping, other sites like Amazon. Wants to work with bookstore & senate to create a joint resolution to benefit students & faculty. The STATE also just past new legislation requiring campaigns to make faculty more aware of costs of textbooks. This is a move in that direction.

First step - wants to know about current practices, current faculty thoughts on policy so as to move forward. Therefore proposes a faculty survey.

President O'Loughlin says survey has been vetted by officers.

Discussion follows as to the worth of the survey, and how the questions need to pertain more to all faculty and departments. Also on how best to limit cost of books.

Nelson is thankful for advice and discussion, knows survey will need to go by IRB. Wants to speak next semester with Senate.

c. New E-Mail system, Jerome Waldron.

Waldron - information item. Those of you around here for a while probably remember we adopted groupwise in mid-90s or so. Things have grown dramatically, so with 1000 faculty & staff, 7000+ students. 18,000 email addresses, 2 million email per day (80-85% are spam). Much filtered out. There are a lot of servers, etc in data area. Growing exponentially. Wanted to hold off as long as possible as had moved to people soft, which was a big move. Concerned with viability of Novell as a network/email company. We are currently only using their email product - directory server, etc is with microsoft. We pay Novell c. \$60,000 while we are managing most of it ourselves. We are therefore moving to Microsoft Exchange. This had been decided by President. This will be for Faculty and Staff. Also planning to take students to Live@edu. microsoft & google are providing free email to students with extra internet storage, et al. for students - w/o much less than 18,000 accounts. Will be better for faculty & staff. Perhaps not save money for a few years, but will provide more options. Our email would still reside on campus - the students will be "out to the cloud."

Discussion follows on new system:

- Faculty will not be able to check if a student has opened an email as easily (will need to ask for receipt).
- Most universities have moved from groupwise to exchange.
- IT will move all old email, process will move slowly, but go through over the next year.

d. Election of new officers.

Now elections for officers. Thanks all for being a great Senate Always had a quorum, vigorous discussion, et al. Khazeh - says doesn't think Perdue has ever had a VP nominee .

Nominations for Vice President: Khazeh nominates self, Clarke nominates Rieck. Secret Ballot.

Quorum remains present. Secret Ballot.
Rieck 10, Khazeh 5

Vice President, David Rieck

Secretary. Donna Ritenour

Web Master. Nominate Kurt Ludwick (accepts), Mike Scott (accepts).

Secret Ballot. Ludwick. 11- 3

7. Adjournment.

Attachments:

Draft Senate Meeting minutes for April 21, 2009.

Draft of "Bylaws of the Salisbury University Governance Consortium" with excerpted text identifying changes from the previous bylaws document passed on March 24, 2009.

Draft of "Student Academic Grievance Policy" with and without explanatory comments.

Draft of "Survey for Faculty," sponsored by the Student Government Association